

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01849 221006Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /106 W  
-----114593 221148Z /13

R 220859Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7099  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 01849

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PDIP IR KE  
SUBJ: BREAK OF GOI RELATIONS WITH KENYA

REF TEHRAN 1760

1. ON FEB 21 MFA DEPARTMENT HEAD GAVE POLCOUNS ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON BREAK OF RELATIONS WITH KENYA. THIS DID NOT AMOUNT TO A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN APPEARED IN FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS (REFTEL). IRANIANS HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY ALLEGATIONS APPEARING IN KENYAN PRESS WHICH ACCUSED IRAN OF INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. IRANIANS HAVE ARGUED THAT MUCH MORE GROSS MILITARY INTERVENTION BY SOVIETS AND FAR-AWAY CUBANS ON ETHIOPIA'S SIDE OUGHT TO GET AT LEAST AS MUCH ATTENTION FROM KENYA AS DID THE QUALIFIED AND GUARDED STATEMENT BY THE SHAH THAT IRAN WOULD NOT STAND IDLY BY IF ETHIOPIA CROSSED INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BOUNDARY INTO SOMALIA. SHAH'S POSITION IS AFTER ALL IN KEEPING WITH U.N. CHARTER.

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2. IRANIANS HAVE BEEN USING THIS ARGUMENT FOR SOME TIME IN KENYA AND WERE UNTIL RECENTLY UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THEM DID NOT HAVE GOK SUPPORT. HOWEVER, IRANIAN AMBASSADOR WAS SURPRISED AND SADDENED TO DISCOVER KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTER MARKING THE SAME ACCUSATIONS AND REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE ANY VIRTUE IN IRANIAN COUNTER-ARGUMENT. IN THAT CIRCUMSTANCE, IRAN FELT IT COULD NOT CONTINUE DIRECT DIPLO-

MATIC RELATIONS WITH A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS ACCUSING IT UNJUSTLY AND IN A DISCRIMINATORY MANNER.

3. DEPARTMENT HEAD WONDERED ALOUD WHAT COULD HAVE MADE KENYANS BEHAVE THAT WAY. POLCOUNS NOTED VERY STRONG KENYAN FEARS OF SOMALI IRREDENTISM AND SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY OTHER FACTOR. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, DEPARTMENT HEAD SAID KENYAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT REACTED IN ANY OFFICIAL MANNER TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BREAK, AND AMBASSADOR TAVAKOLI IS WINDING UP HIS AFFAIRS. DEPARTMENT HEAD THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY DECISION WOULD BE RESERVED IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: SOMETHING OF A TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT PERHAPS, BUT THE SHAH IS VERY SENSITIVE TO ASPERSIONS BEING CAST ON IRAN'S GOOD NAME AND HIS OWN PRESTIGE. IN ABSENCE OF ANY CONCILIATORY GESTURE FROM KENYANS, WE AGREE WITH COMMENT IN NAIROBI'S 2693 (JUST RECEIVED) THAT THERE SEEMS LITTLE CHANCE OF PATCHING THINGS UP AS LONG AS THE HORN CONFLICT IS NOT SETTLED.

MIKLOS

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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